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SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD:

•

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

•

FEW DOMAINS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE DEADLANDS, WHERE THE SOLDIERS OF THE SHIELD HOLD OFF A HORDE OF ZOMBIES.

•

TELEPORTED DEEP INTO THE DEADLANDS BY A ROGUE ZOMBIE, SHIELD SECTION COMMANDER ELSA BLOODSTONE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS CHILD WHO DREDGED UP PAINFUL MEMORIES OF HER FATHER, ULYSSES BLOODSTONE.

•

WHEN THE CHILD WAS ABDUCTED BY AN UNUSUALLY INTELLIGENT SHAPESHIFTING ZOMBIE, ELSA RUSHED TO THE RESCUE, ONLY TO STUMBLE ACROSS THE SOURCE OF THE ZOMBIE'S INTELLIGENCE: THE MERC WITH A MOUTH HIMSELF, DEADPOOL!

MARVEL ZOMBIES

◆ JOURNEY INTO MISERY: EPISODE 3 ◆

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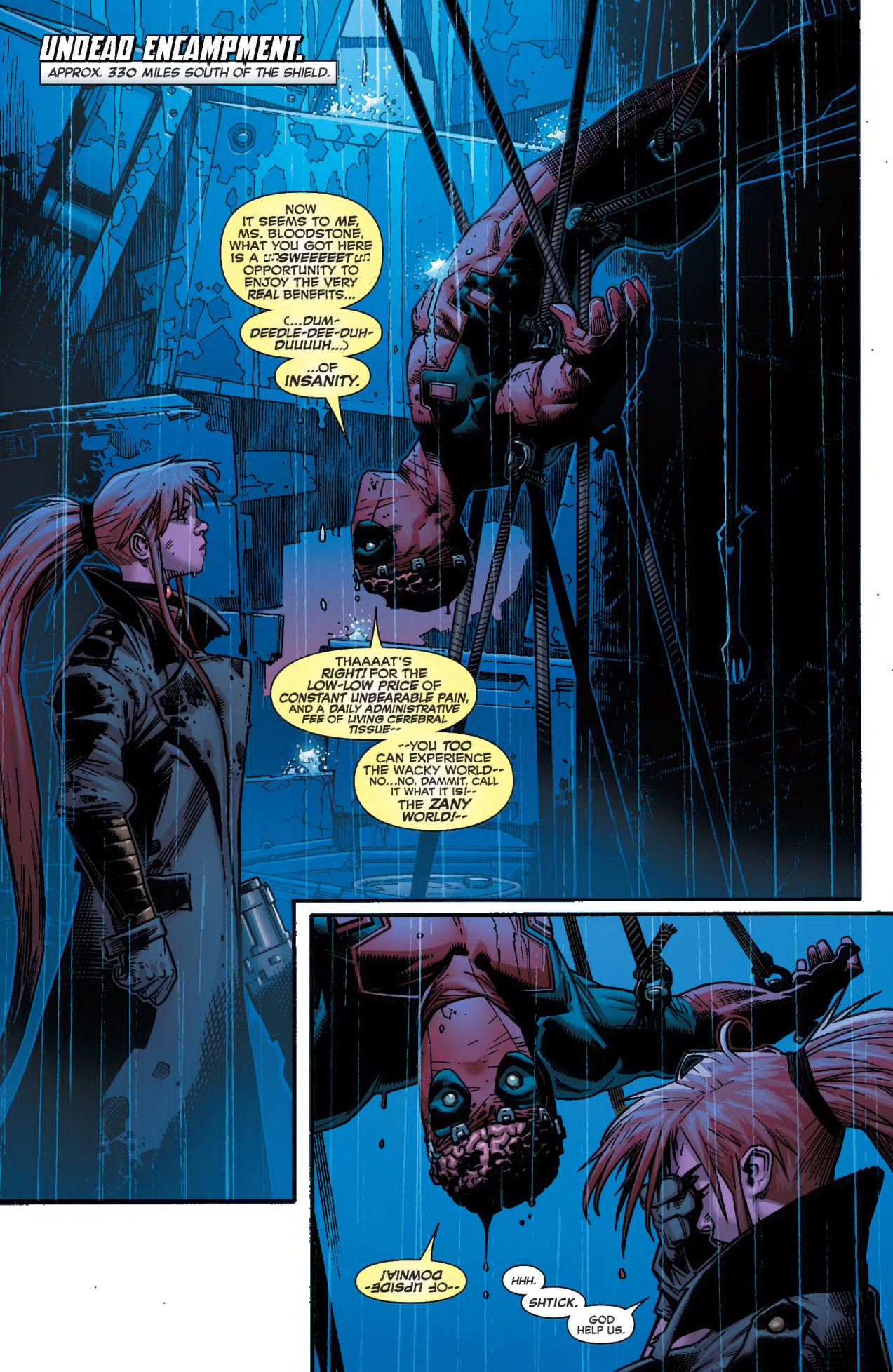
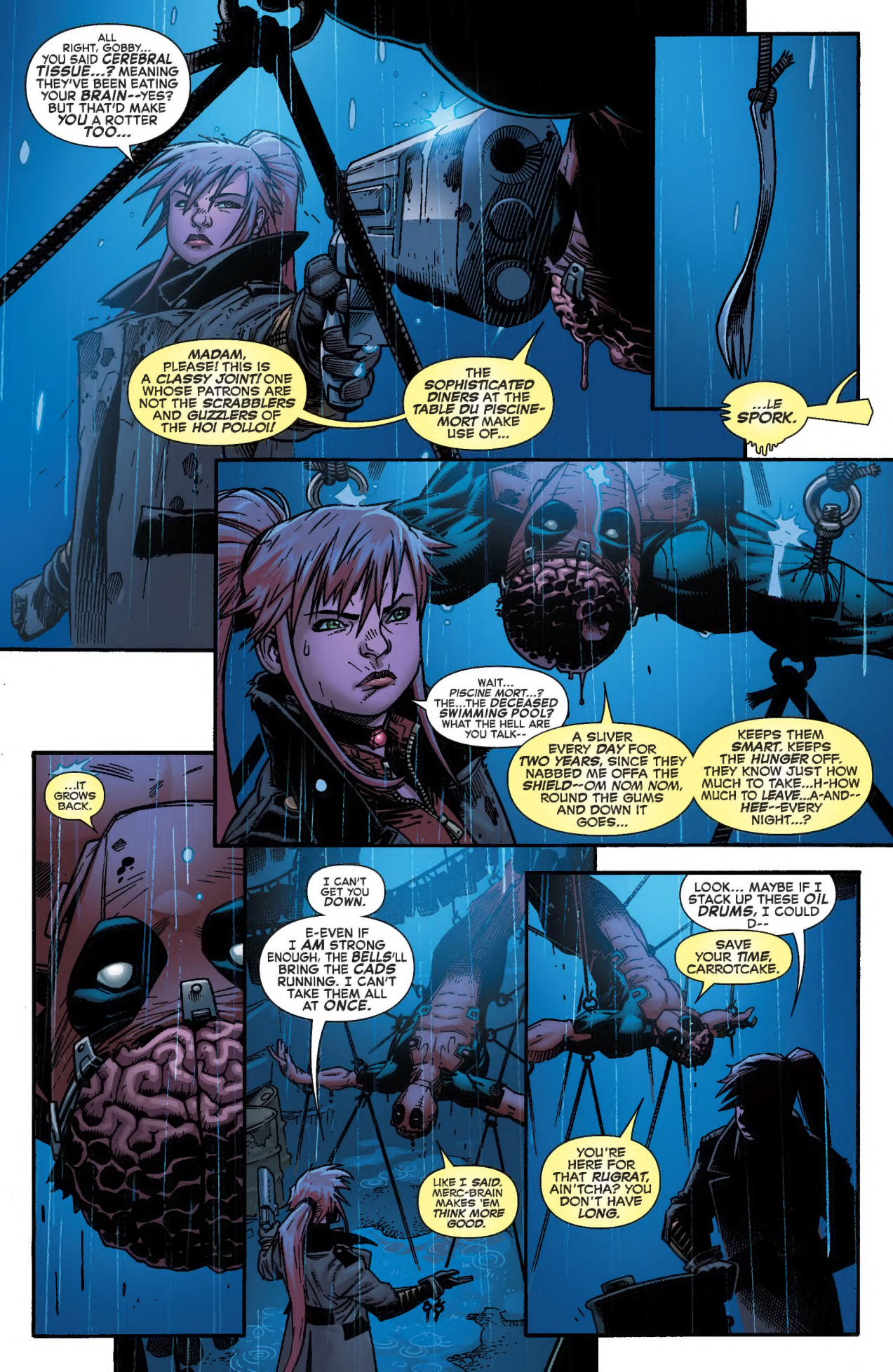
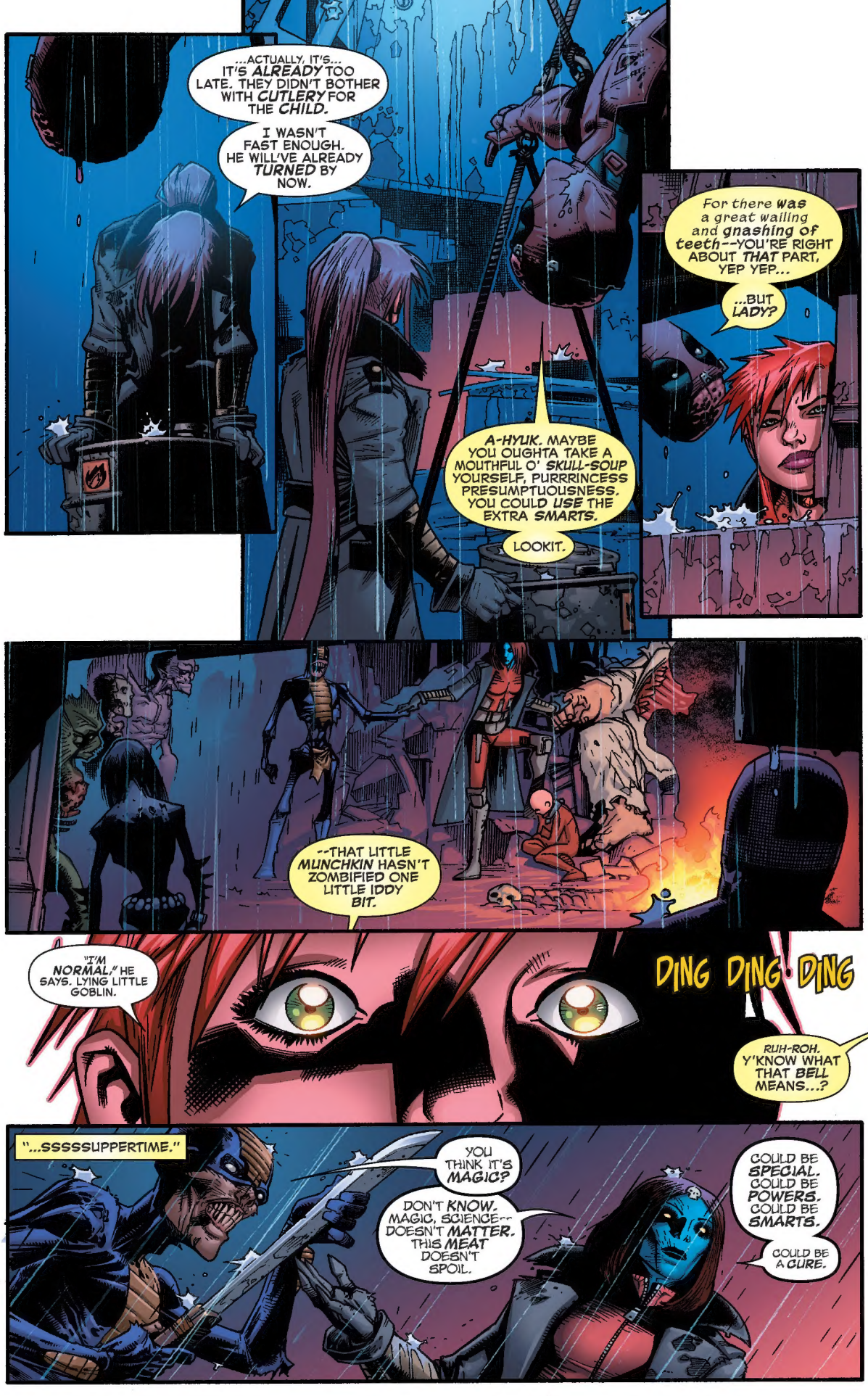

UNDEAD ENCAMPMENT.
APPROX. 330 MILES SOUTH OF THE SHIELD.
NOW IT SEEMS TO ME, MS. BLOODSTONE, WHAT YOU GOT HERE IS A ♪♪SWEEEEET♪♪ OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE VERY REAL BENEFITS...
(...DUM-DEEDLE-DEE-DUH-DUUUUH...)
...OF INSANITY.
THAAAAT'S RIGHT! FOR THE LOW-LOW PRICE OF CONSTANT UNBEARABLE PAIN, AND A DAILY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF LIVING CEREBRAL TISSUE--
--YOU TOO CAN EXPERIENCE THE WACKY WORLD-- NO...NO, DAMMIT, CALL IT WHAT IT IS!-- THE ZANY WORLD!--
--OF UPSIDE-DOWNIA!
HHH.
SHTICK.
GOD HELP US.

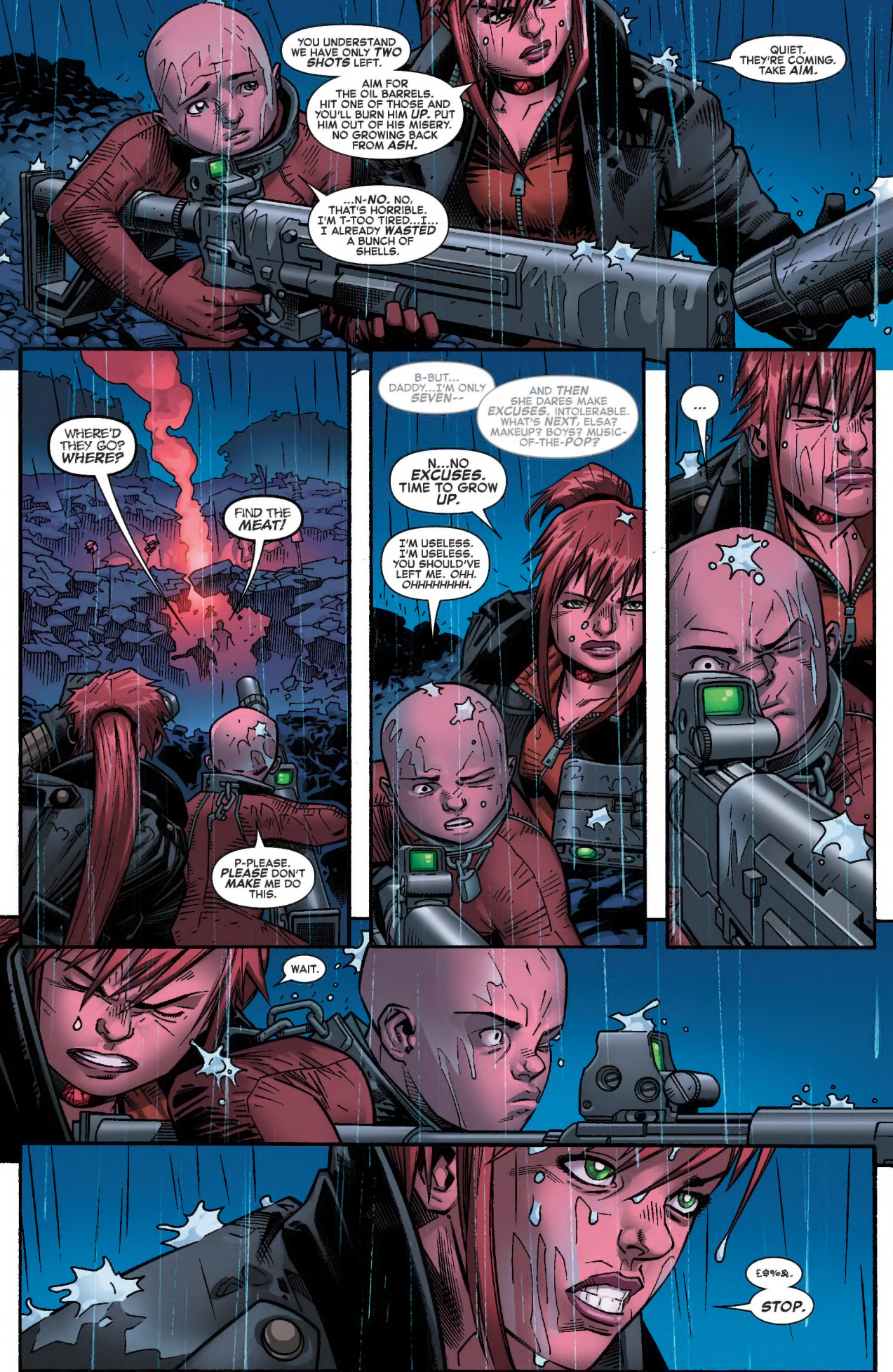

ALL RIGHT, GOBBY... YOU SAID CEREBRAL TISSUE...? MEANING THEY'VE BEEN EATING YOUR BRAIN--YES? BUT THAT'D MAKE YOU A ROTTER TOO...
MADAM, PLEASE! THIS IS A CLASSY JOINT! ONE WHOSE PATRONS ARE NOT THE SCRABBLERS AND GUZZLERS OF THE HOI POLLOI!
THE SOPHISTICATED DINERS AT THE TABLE DU PISCINE-MORT MAKE USE OF...
...LE SPORK.
WAIT... PISCINE MORT...? THE...THE DECEASED SWIMMING POOL? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALK--
A SLIVER EVERY DAY FOR TWO YEARS, SINCE THEY NABBED ME OFFA THE SHIELD--OM NOM NOM, ROUND THE GUMS AND DOWN IT GOES...
KEEPS THEM SMART. KEEPS THE HUNGER OFF. THEY KNOW JUST HOW MUCH TO TAKE...H-HOW MUCH TO LEAVE...A-AND--HEE--EVERY NIGHT...?
...IT GROWS BACK.
I CAN'T GET YOU DOWN.
E-EVEN IF I AM STRONG ENOUGH, THE BELLS'LL BRING THE CADS RUNNING. I CAN'T TAKE THEM ALL AT ONCE.
LIKE I SAID. MERC-BRAIN MAKES 'EM THINK MORE GOOD.
LOOK... MAYBE IF I STACK UP THESE OIL DRUMS, I COULD D--
SAVE YOUR TIME, CARROTCAKE.
YOU'RE HERE FOR THAT RUGRAT, AIN'TCHA? YOU DON'T HAVE LONG.


...ACTUALLY, IT'S... IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. THEY DIDN'T BOTHER WITH CUTLERY FOR THE CHILD.
I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH. HE WILL'VE ALREADY TURNED BY NOW.
A-HYUK. MAYBE YOU OUGHTA TAKE A MOUTHFUL O' SKULL-SOUP YOURSELF, PURRRINCESS PRESUMPTUOUSNESS. YOU COULD USE THE EXTRA SMARTS.
LOOKIT.
For there was a great wailing and gnashing of teeth--YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT PART, YEP YEP...
...BUT LADY?
--THAT LITTLE MUNCHKIN HASN'T ZOMBIFIED ONE LITTLE IDDY BIT.
"I'M NORMAL," HE SAYS. LYING LITTLE GOBLIN.
DING DING DING
RUH-ROH. Y'KNOW WHAT THAT BELL MEANS...?
"...SSSSSUPPERTIME."
YOU THINK IT'S MAGIC?
DON'T KNOW. MAGIC, SCIENCE--DOESN'T MATTER. THIS MEAT DOESN'T SPOIL.
COULD BE SPECIAL. COULD BE POWERS. COULD BE SMARTS.
COULD BE A CURE.

I WANT THE BRAIN.
AAAAA-- NO NO HELP HELP HELP!
DON'T YOU £$%&ING TOUCH H--
HEH HEH HEH YOU WON'T GET FIVE PACES OUT THERE, SISTER.
Y-YOU'RE
OH
OH. I FEEL YOU.
YOU'RE HERE.
SAY, LADY?
LIKE, I KNOW I'M BATCRAP CRAZY 'N' ALL, AND--I GOTTA BE HONEST--I'VE HAD MY FAIR SHARE OF HALLUCINATIONS...
...THAT EMPANADA IN THE HOOTERS TOP'S GONNA BE TOUGH TO BEAT...
...BUT STILL-- I'M PRETTY SURE ABOUT THIS ONE:
YOU'RE GLOWIN'.
NEVER SURRENDER. NEVER STOP. NEVER RELENT.

NOW
GET UP.

AAAAAHAHAHAHAHA THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU I KNEW YOU'RE NOT AS HORRID AS YOU PRETEND THANK YOU THANK Y--
IF YOU BLUB ON ME I'LL SNAP YOU MYSELF.
HEY...HEY, WAIT--WAIT-- W-WE HAVE TO STOP!
WHAT?
THE DANGLY MAN! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM!
YOU MEAN THE NUTCASE IN RED? THE SWIMMING POOL GUY?
HE...HE SCREAMS SO BAD! PLEASE! WE HAVE TO GO BACK!
BUT...FOR GOD'S SAKE--THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR US NOW. EVEN WITH THIS...BOOST... WHATEVER-IT-IS...THEY'LL OVERWHELM ME.
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES! YOU DO NOT MAKE THE FEEBLE YOUR BURDEN!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT. YOU CAME BACK FOR ME.
LOOK... I'M SORRY. THERE'S JUST... THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN SAVE HIM.
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE!
...
WELL, THEN. HERE.
WUH... WUH...


YOU UNDERSTAND WE HAVE ONLY TWO SHOTS LEFT.
AIM FOR THE OIL BARRELS. HIT ONE OF THOSE AND YOU'LL BURN HIM UP. PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY. NO GROWING BACK FROM ASH.
QUIET. THEY'RE COMING. TAKE AIM.
...N-NO. NO, THAT'S HORRIBLE. I'M T-TOO TIRED...I... I ALREADY WASTED A BUNCH OF SHELLS.
WHERE'D THEY GO? WHERE?
FIND THE MEAT!
P-PLEASE. PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS.
B-BUT... DADDY...I'M ONLY SEVEN--
AND THEN SHE DARES MAKE EXCUSES. INTOLERABLE. WHAT'S NEXT, ELSA? MAKEUP? BOYS? MUSIC-OF-THE-POP?
N...NO EXCUSES. TIME TO GROW UP.
I'M USELESS. I'M USELESS. YOU SHOULD'VE LEFT ME. OHH. OHHHHHHHH.
...
WAIT.
£$%&.
STOP.

$%£&
YOU, YOU OLD BASTARD.
CHILDREN SHOULD BE CHILDREN.
OOH.
BATH TIME.
BOOOOMF
THE EVER-MEAT! THEY KILLED THE EVER-MEAT!
SHOT CAME FROM UP THERE! IT'S THE WALL-WENCH--I CAN SSSSMELL HER!
GO! GO! I WANT THE GIRL-MEAT BACK!
GIRL...?
YOU NEVER ASKED.
£$%&.

THEYYYYYYY'RE
MIIIIINE!
SHULK

H.A.H.A.H.A.H.A
HE'S...HE'S ENJOYING IT.
I CAN... I CAN FEEL H--
RUN PLEASE RUN NOW RUN LET'S RUN GOOD IDEA RUN RUN...
HA!
FLOSH
"S...STRONG..."

...I'VE NEVER FELT THIS STRONG.
THAT'S NICE.
BUT, UM, ELSA? YOU KNOW, UH...YOU KNOW WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DANGLY MAN?
WOULD YOU DO THAT TO ME? IF IT CAME TO IT?
A CHILD OF THE BLOODSTONE DOES NOT HESITATE TO SUFFER, ELSA.
NOTHING MUST COME BETWEEN HIM-?TT? OR HER--AND THE ANNIHILATION OF EVIL.
NOT PAIN. NOT HARDSHIP. NOT LOSS. NOT EVEN DEATH.
"BETTER TO DESTROY WHAT'S GOOD THAN LET THE DARKNESS DEVOUR IT."
WHAT?
JUST SOMETHING MY DAD USED TO SAY.
WHY DO YOU THINK I WAS SAVING TWO SHELLS, GENIUS?
DAD, YOU SHOT IT THROUGH THE HOSTAGE...!
WAR IS COST, ELSA. ?KOFF?
A WARRIOR OF THE LIGHT DOES NOT CONCERN HIMSELF WITH QUIBBLING AT THE PRICE. HE...?HKH? HE THINKS ONLY OF THE STRUGGLE.
MISS?
YOUR DAD SOUNDS LIKE KIND OF A £$%&.

WHAT? NO. I MEAN...
LOOK--HE WAS A HARD MAN. SOMETIMES, FINE, SOMETIMES EVEN CRUEL.
DOGMATIC. OBSESSIVE.
BUT THE POINT IS--
MANIACAL.
THE POINT IS, HE BELIEVED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. AND GREATNESS. MAKING THE WORLD BETTER.
I-IT'S THANKS TO HIM THAT I'M TH--
DAD HE WAS JUST WALKING ME HOME, DAD, PLEASE HE'S NOT A VAMPIRE I SWEAR, DAD, I CHECKED DAD STOP--
THAT I'M.
I'M.
I-IT STINGS MY HEAD, DADDY.
WELL, NATURALLY. YOU TOOK TEN SECONDS TOO LONG AND HAVE QLIPPOTH BLOOD IN YOUR HAIR. NOT A PROMISING FIRST KILL, ELSA.
YOU WILL NOT WASH NOR SHAVE UNTIL IT HAS INFECTED YOUR SCALP. YOU WILL WEAR ITS COLOR AS A BADGE OF YOUR INADEQUACY.
...
AND YOU WILL LIE TO YOUR MOTHER ABOUT HOW YOU GOT IT.

...
WE BETTER STOP. WE CAN SLUM IT IN THERE.
WHATEVER CAUSED THAT RUSH...I THINK IT'S OVER.
≠YAAAAWN≠
SAY--WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, ANYWAY? YOUR DAD.
SAME THING THAT HAPPENS TO EVERY SMUG PRAT WHO THINKS HE'S INVINCIBLE AND MAKES YOU FEEL WEAK.
BLEH!
BOKK
HE DIMINISHED.

MAYBE HE WAS JUST ALIVE TOO LONG. MAYBE IMMORTALITY'S FATAL-- HA. WOULDN'T THAT BE PERFECT?
OR MAYBE IT WAS THE BLOODSTONE, POISONING HIM OVER THE CENTURIES. MAYBE NOBODY SHOULD HAVE THAT MUCH POWER.
BUT...YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK REALLY FINISHED HIM OFF?
I THINK HE JUST GOT SICK OF NOT BEING AS PERFECT AS HE THOUGHT.
LAST OF THE EMERGENCY TEABAGS. :TT<
COWARD. COWARD.
I WILL NOT LIVE IN THIS FEEBLE FLESH. CLAIM YOUR INHERITANCE! KILL ME!
KILL ME!
HOW DID HE DIE?
WASN'T ME, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
FIRST AND ONLY TIME I EVER SAID "NO." MY GREATEST VICTORY OR MY WORST FAILURE-- JURY'S STILL OUT. HE CLAIMED THE LATTER.
NO, IN THE END HE JUST... CRAWLED OFF SOMEWHERE.
"MAYBE ONE FINAL TESTOSTERONE-TANGLE WITH A DRAGON. ORRRR MAYBE HE JUST GOT PISSED AND PUKED HIS LUNGS OUT IN AN ALLEY--WHO KNOWS?
"THE BLOODSTONE CRUMBLED TO COAL. THEY SCRAPED HIM UP SO I HAD SOMETHING TO BURY, BUT...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT STICKS IN MY MIND.
"IT'S HOW I FELT AFTER WE PUT HIM IN THE GROUND.

"FOR JUST A SPLIT SECOND.
"I WAS GLAD."
TRUTH IS... TRUTH IS I'VE SPENT THE PAST TEN YEARS FEELING PREDICTABLY BLOODY WRETCHED ABOUT THAT DIRTY MOMENT OF JOY.
JOINED THE SHIELD. STAMPED UP-AND-DOWN ON MY OWN EMPATHY.
FOUGHT FOR RIGHTNESS AND £$%& ORDER BECAUSE IT'S WHAT HE EXPECTED.
SO I SUPPOSE THE DISGUSTING OLD BULLY WON IN THE END ANYWAY.

BRIEFLY.
RRRIP
...
YOU KNOW... I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY THAT STUFF BEFORE.
CROTCH-PUNCHING FIRST, EMOTIONAL CANDOR SECOND--THAT'S THE BLOODSTONE WAY.
IT... ACTUALLY FEELS RATHER GOOD.
SO.
IN THE FINE OLD SPIRIT OF RECIPROCITY AND ALL THAT BOLLOCKS...
...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD ME WHO OR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE TOO?
HUH.
Y-YOU SLEEP, GIRLY.
TOMORROW'S A NEW DAY.

WHEEEEEEEEE
HAH.
HAH.
HUH.
WELL.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S AS FAR AS WE GO.
I THINK THAT'S OKAY.
I THINK WE GOT TO WHERE WE'RE MEANT TO BE ANYWAY.
MM.
ABOUT THAT.
NOW SEE HERE, BALDING MIDGET CATHARSIS-TRIGGER, I'M NOT ANGRY WITH YOU. IT'S ALL FINE. BUT...C'MON...I'M NOT STUPID.
YOU'RE ROTTER-PROOF. YOU CONVENIENTLY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE RIGHT WHEN I DID...
AND EVERY TIME SOMETHING EXCITING HAPPENS I GET A BUZZ OFF MY BLOODSTONE AND YOU SPEND HOURS EXHAUSTED.
YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
HONESTLY-- I DON'T KNOW. I JUST GET THESE WEIRD FEE--
FEEEEELINGSSSS.
STAY BEHIND ME.
WELL, NOW.

TINGLING
SMELLS LIKE GINGER
IT'S HER IT'S HER
LOOK WHO FINALLY CAUGHT UP...

H-HOW DID IT GET HERE AHEAD OF US?
TELEPORTED.
THAT'S MY KNIFE IN ITS SHOULDER. MEANS IT'S THE SAME HALF-HEADED GLAND WHO DUMPED ME OUT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
RED-BLOODY-TERROR IS THE STUPIDEST NAME IN THE W--
WRONNNNG
I ATE THE DEVIL'S HEART AND TOOK YOUR SCENT FROM THE BLADE.
I REACHED THIS PLACE BEFORE YOU SIMPLY BECAUSE I RAN OVERNIGHT, WHEREAS YOU...
HHHH...
QUIT.
A GOOD HUNTER DOESN'T NEED TO TRACK. HE KNOWS WHERE HIS PREY'S HEADED.
TH...THAT'S... WHO TAUGHT YOU TH--
ELSA...? THE...THE DUPE EFFECT. L-LOOK AT THE BODIES.
THAT'S YOU.
HHAA. GOOD. GOOOOD. THE CHILD HAS A FINE EYE.
SHE UNDERSTANDS SOMETHING YOU NEVER WILL.
THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY.
NOW...WHO'S GOT A KISS FOR DADDY...?
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE

JOURNEY INTO MISERY: EPISODE 4!